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Letter from Annie to Floride Clemson, 1864 February 22

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Hammond. Feb-22nd /04.

Monday morning.

My dear Florida,

I have just been finishing a letter home, & one to Annie. I am to send by Cousin Rebecca to Mother, so before I stop, will add a little to you, for I have a pair of sad news for you, which I trust you will regret to hear. Blakely was destroyed by fire Sunday the 14th - Such a windy day - caught from a spark on the roof - Not discovered till it made great headway. Blakely - when we have all passed so many pleasant times, & which was always open to all. Is it not dreadful? It caught on that little room - Lizzie's room at the side

He never got to town to church any more, but - have Annie here very much. It is very pleasant. In a few days I will go home. Did you get my last letter?

The Alysandus had that room - they
have lost every thing - then the parlor
- land children had the next - the
middle room - they have lost all
to - they were all away at church at
Claymont - nearly all the family -
for Charlie was sick in the parlor
when they got home & when Washington
opened the door to enter his room the
ceiling fell - so they have lost all -
then parents' dresses - watches &c, &c
many & such valuable things. And
such a quantity of things & clothes
stored in the parlor - all lost -
Christians room being in the new
building most of his were saved -
his handsome dresses lost in the
garret. Went home with a change of
clothing - not one, have but the one
pair of shoes on their feet - no trunks
Mr Redsteads saved - some beds & only
one bureau - the down stairs furniture

pretty much send - likely all of it.

The more we think of it - the more
dreadful it appears - so many orphan
children all together but I now know
it is so hard to get anything & clothing
so expensive - many things they dashed
out of the windows were burned - it
was a very high wind & shifted from
different times - Black Charlotte was
invaluable - send all ^{she} could -
Cousin B. has lost most of his clothing -
& in the midst of the fire went up to the
barn & got the carriage himself for Charlie
or he might have been send more - Mrs. David
Burnet hurried & brought her carriage for
Christian & took her right home & before
sun down had passed her little boy was
home - she was busy all morning pick-
ing up bundles & trying to put out the
fire in the grass to keep it from spread-
ing to the fences & then to the barn.
She is doing very well - I wish we were

Thurs² day to see Mr. Garrison & - has taken
Claymont house - Cousin Hannah & I
will still live here - here comes to them
sister. He heard yesterday that Dr. Black-
burn's house was burned Saturday night -
we have heard Dr. Mearns' girls catching
fire sparks & chimneys. He all feel
very anxious & fearful - such high winds.
Lucy was right sick for some days, but is
pretty well again - Annie has lost her two
babies & is much distressed - Dr. Ford of
her children. Aunt L. - has not been well
either, but is better, only Dr. Mearns & I
George is sick too. My little ones are both
well. Lewis & Edwin Washington are home
are up the Valley at school & anxious to
get home. Dr. Mearns New Florida. I hope
you and Aunt Anna are well. How are
Uncle Thomas & Calhoun? I suppose you
have sometimes from the latter any
more. I heard from Mary yesterday.
Aunt Lucia joins with me in much
love to Aunt Anna & yourself. Ever affec-
tionally
Your cousin Annie.